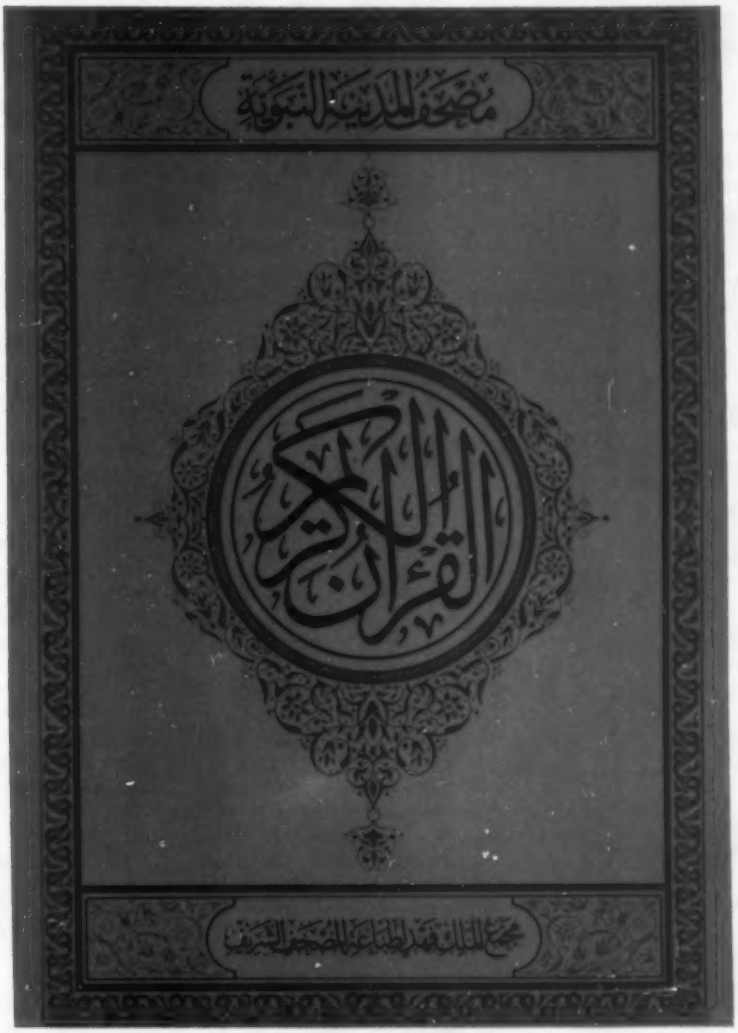
Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 49, No. 22 Published Biweekly November 5, 1990



The Near East Section

See page 372

Also in This Issue

Librarian of Congress names 25 films to National Film Registry . . 367

James Merrill wins first Bobbitt Prize 368

1990 Nobel Laureate has long association with LC 369

LC seeks OK for Iraq transactions 370

20 million see LC's "Read More" message . . 371

Cover

Title page of the Koran, printed in Saudia Arabia in the King Fahd Special Center for the Printing of Islam's Holy Book; a copy of the publication is in LC's collections. Photo by Jim Higgins

---

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Guy Lamolinara, Editor

LC in the News

☐ Calling the Library "a temple, a museum, a rich man's attic," Associated Press special correspondent Saul Pett's feature-length Oct. 21 story on LC ran in newspapers nationwide.

Mr. Pett, a 1983 Pulitzer Prize winner, noted that LC has a vast collection of the ordinary as well as the unique, such as Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Dickens's walking stick and the contents of Lincoln's pockets the day he was assassinated at Ford's Theater (for some unknown reason, a $5 Confederate bill was among the items).

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington comments that " 'it's been said that the only crystal ball man has is a rear-view mirror. Here, in this place, we have the widest angle rear-view mirror in the world.' "

The story also took note of Dr. Billington's plan to make the institution "a library without walls," as LC works to make its resources available electronically to libraries nationwide (see story, page 383).

☐ The Associated Press, in "The Musician's Third Hand," featured the Music Division's "unflappable" page turner Elmer Booze.

Mr. Booze, 57, has turned sheet music pages for the likes of Aaron Copland, Andre Watts and Bella Davidovich.

Although he usually does his work unobtrusively, like a "ghost," as one pianist has called him, sometimes disaster does strike. Mr. Booze recalled the time when a missing paper clip brought a performance to a " 'screeching halt.' "

A pianist was supposed to have inserted a paper clip in the score of a work he was performing so that Elmer Booze could turn to it without hesitation. When the time came, the clip was not there. " 'It was not a good show,' " Mr. Booze told AP correspondent Robert M. Andrews. And once, when Aaron Copland was performing at the Library, a button from Mr. Booze's jacket popped onto the keyboard while the pianist was performing. From that day on, the page turner has never buttoned his jacket while working.

☐ Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry Mark Stand has been the subject of interviews in *The Washington Times* on Sept. 19 and *The Des Moines Register* on June 6, among other publications.

The *Times* piece, by Elisabeth Hickey, referred to Mr. Strand as "one of American poetry's leading voices of loneliness and alienation."

But now, the poet said, " 'my poems are less dark, fuller, longer, and they're not ashamed of being pretty or beautiful. I tried to make them as lovely as I could.' "

Kellye Carter's *Register* story quoted Mr. Strand, who had lived in Canada, New York, Philadelphia, Italy and several Latin American countries before moving to Iowa almost 30 years ago, saying, " 'I became a poet' " in Iowa.

" 'It was a wonderful place to be. It was wild—lots of writing, talking about poetry as if it were the most important thing in the world, much more important than anything else,' " he said.

☐ Peter Fay, head of the Kennedy Center's performing arts library, a joint project with LC, was profiled in the Aug. 23 *Washington Post*. Mr. Fay said of the one-room library, " 'We're sort of the smallest part of the biggest library in the world.' "

His most unusual request, he says, was from a man living in a commune with his girlfriend. " 'They were living exclusively on goat milk, and he wrote to ask if we knew of any songs useful for getting more milk out of goats.' "

—Guy Lamolinara

Librarian of Congress Names 25 Movies to National Film Registry

Scenes from "Fantasia" and "The Godfather," two films on 1990's National Film Registry. Photos copyright Walt Disney Co. and Paramount Pictures

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced on Oct. 18 this year's selections for the National Film Registry, under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act of 1988.

After consultation with the National Film Board and review of nominations from film critics, historians, the general public and staff of the Library's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, Dr. Billington named the 25 films.

In announcing this year's selection, Dr. Billington emphasized that the list should not be interpreted as the "best" 25 films. Indeed, under the act, a film is not eligible for consideration until 10 years after its first theatrical release. To be included in the registry, a film must be considered "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant."

Up to 25 films each year for three years will be added to the registry. The first group of 25 was named last year. For each movie named to the registry, the Library of Congress "will endeavor to obtain" an archival-quality original version and place it in the National Film Collection maintained by the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, the largest archive of its kind in the world.

Any "materially altered" version of a film on the National Film Registry (other than a colorized version) will be required to carry the following statement:

"This is a materially altered version of the film originally marketed and distributed to the public. It has been altered without the participation of the principal director, screenwriter and other creators of the original film."

Colorized versions of the film must carry this statement:

"This is a colorized version of a film originally marketed and distributed to the public in black and white. It has been altered without the participation of the principal director, screenwriter and other creators of the original film."

The purpose behind the creation of the National Film Registry is to recognize motion pictures as an American art form and to emphasize to the public and leaders of the government and private sector that motion pictures are in need of greater protection and preservation.

It has been estimated that as many as half the films made before 1950 have been lost forever because of physical deterioration, in many cases because of the highly unstable nitrate film stock on which they were made. Over the years, nitrate film degrades into a highly combustible jelly or powder.

—Craig D'Ooge

NATIONAL FILM REGISTRY
of the Library of Congress

1990 National Film Registry

All About Eve (1950); All Quiet on the Western Front (1930); Bringing Up Baby (1938); Dodsworth (1936); Duck Soup (1933); Fantasia (1940); The Freshman (1925); The Godfather (1972); The Great Train Robbery (1903); Harlan County, U.S.A. (1976); How Green Was My Valley (1941); It's a Wonderful Life (1946); Killer of Sheep (1977); Love Me Tonight (1932); Meshes of the Afternoon (1943); Ninotchka (1939); Primary (1960); Raging Bull (1980); Rebel Without a Cause (1955); Red River (1948); The River (1937); Sullivan's Travels (1941); Top Hat (1935); The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948); A Woman Under the Influence (1974)

James Merrill Wins First Bobbitt Prize
The Inner Room *Gets Nod for Biennial Award*

Upon reflection, as I dip my pen
Tonight, forth ripple messages in code.
In Now's black waters burn the stars
of Then.

Seen from the embankment, marble
men
Sleep upside down, bat-wise, the sleep
bestowed
Upon reflection. As I dip my pen

Thinking how others, deeper into Zen,
Blew on immediacy until it glowed,
In Now's black waters burn the stars
of Then.

Or else I'm back at Grandmother's. I'm
ten,
Dust hides my parents' roadster from
the road
*Which dips—*into *reflection, with my*
pen.

Breath after breath, harsh O's of
oxygen—
Never deciphered, what do they
forebode?
In Now's black waters burn the stars.
Ah then

Leap, Memory, supreme equestrienne,
Through hoops of fire, circuits you
overload!
Beyond reflection, as I dip my pen
In Now's black waters, burn the stars
of Then.

—"Dead Center"
from The Inner Room

On Oct. 25 the Library of Congress named James Merrill the recipient of a major new privately funded poetry prize given on behalf of the nation.

Mr. Merrill is the first winner of the biennial Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry.

The $10,000 prize recognizes the most distinguished book of poetry written by an American and published during the preceding two years. Mr. Merrill's prize-winning volume is *The Inner Room,* published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1988.

The prize is donated by the family of the late Mrs. Bobbitt of Austin, Texas, in her memory and established at the Library of Congress.

The Bobbitt Prize is a literary milestone (see LC *Information Bulletin,* June 18, 1990). It will be the first such award given by the Library since it presented the Bollingen Prize to Ezra Pound for his *Pisan Cantos* in 1948. Pound had been interned for pro-Italian activities during World War II and indicted for treason. During the controversy surrounding the award, Congress's Joint Committee on the Library prohibited LC from granting awards or prizes.

In announcing the award, James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress, said, "It is fitting that the Library of Congress, which holds the world's largest collection of poetry and appoints the nation's Poet Laureate, should honor America's leading poets with this national prize. James Merrill's outstanding work makes this first award particularly appropriate."

At the request of the Librarian of Congress, the Joint Committee on the Library, on April 15, 1988, gave the Library approval for the resumption of "the awarding of prizes . . . in recognition of exceptionally meritorious achievements in the life of the mind, including works in biography, history, fiction, poetry and drama."

The Bobbitt Prize will be the first literary prize to be offered and administered by the Library since this congressional approval took effect.

"This is clearly a very grand prize, given under the most distinguished auspices, and I couldn't be more honored or pleased by the news," James Merrill said, when informed of the award.

Mr. Merrill, in addition to his many other awards and honors, was the 1973 winner of the Bollingen Prize in Poetry, now awarded by Yale University, a Pulitzer Prize in 1977, and most recently (1989) he received the Medal of Honor for Literature from the National Arts Club.

The poet, who is also a novelist and playwright, was born in New York City and now resides in Stonington, Conn. He is the author of 10 other books of poetry, which have won him two National Book Awards (*Nights and Days* and *Mirabell*), the Bollingen Prize in Poetry (*Braving the Elements*) and the Pulitzer Prize (*Divine Comedies*). Mr. Merrill has also written two novels, (*The (Diblos) Notebook* (1965) and *The Seraglio* (1957, reissued in 1987) and two plays, "The Immortal Husband," first produced in 1955, and, in one act, "The Bait," published in 1960. Also, a book of essays, *Recitative,* appeared in 1986.

Mr. Merrill has taught at Bard College, Yale, Amherst and the University of Wisconsin. —John Sullivan

Octavio Paz, 1990 Nobel Laureate, Has Long Association with LC

Almost three decades before he received the 1990 Nobel Prize in literature, Octavio Paz recorded his work for the Library's Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape.

Mr. Paz, 76, is the fifth Latin American and 10th Spanish-language writer to win the Nobel. He recorded for the Archive on March 23 and 24, 1961, reading selections from *Aguila o Sol* (*Eagle or Sun;* 1951), *Semillas para un Himno* (*Seeds for a Psalm;* 1954), *Salamandra* (*Salamander;* 1961) and the entire poem "Piedra de Sol" ("Sun Stone";

I go a journey in galleries of sound,
I flow among the resonant presences
going, a blind man passing trans-
parencies,
one mirror cancels me, I rise from
another,
forest whose trees are pillars of
magic,
under the arches of light I go among
the corridors of a dissolving autumn

–excerpt from "Sun Stone"

1957). He visited the Library again in 1978 when he was the keynote speaker at the Organization of American States' "Mexico Today Symposium" and again in 1987 for an international writers conference, held at the Library and sponsored by the Wheatland Foundation.

According to Georgette Dorn, curator of the Archive of Hispanic Literature on Tape and specialist in Hispanic culture in the Library's Hispanic Division, Mr. Paz is a true cosmopolitan "who incorporates into his poetry themes of pre-Columbian Meso-America and Oriental philosophy, as well as surrealism.

The Oriental influence, she says, is evidenced in his adaptation of the Japanese *haiku* form in his poems.

The Swedish Academy of Letters recognized Mr. Paz's work for its "sensuous intelligence and humanistic integrity."

His principal books of verse are *Libertad bajo Palabra* and *Piedra de Sol.*

In addition to poetry, Mr. Paz also has written literary criticism and political analysis. He served as a diplomat in Europe and India for several decades, allowing him to further broaden his artistic world view. He is perhaps best known in the United States for his book-long essay *Laberinto de Soledad* (*Labyrinth of Solitude*), a thoughtful meditation on Mexican cultural, social and historical identity.

He has tried his hand at biography, producing the acclaimed *Sor Juana* (*Traps of Faith;* 1988), the story of the great Mexican nun, poet and savant of the Baroque period. Recent works include *Convergences: Essays on Art and Literature* and *One Earth, Four or Five Worlds.*

Mr. Paz delivered a masterly lecture about his poetic vision at the bicentennial celebration of Georgetown University in 1989. At that time he emphasized to Ms. Dorn his commitment to furthering the cause of democracy as well as political and economic freedom. A disenchanted former leftist, the writer predicted the collapse of communism in his influential journal *Vuelta,* which he publishes in Mexico City.

"Paz discovered 'global communities,' or similarities, among the peoples of Asia, Europe and Latin America, and this is reflected in his poems," says Ms. Dorn.

(Much of Octavio Paz's work has been translated into English by Eliot Weinberger, among others, including Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry Mark Strand.)

The Hispanic Division has recorded all the Spanish-language Nobel laureates in literature (Gabriela Mistral, 1945; Jual Ramon Jimenez, 1956; Miguel Angel Asturias, 1967; Pablo Neruda, 1971; Gabriel Garcia Marquez, 1982; Vicente Aleixandre, 1977; Camilo Jose Cela, 1989), with the exception of Jose Echegaray (1904) and Jacinto Benavente (1922).

I begin and begin again. And do not move forward. When I reach the fatal letters, my pen falls back: an implacable prohibition blocks the way. Yesterday, invested with full powers, I wrote easily on some loose page: a bit of sky, a wall (undaunted before the sun and my eyes), a meadow, another body. Everything served me: the writing of the wind, of the birds, the water, the stone. Adolescence, land ploughed by a fixed idea, body tattooed with images, gleaming scars! The autumn led great rivers to pasture, hoarded splendors in the peaks, sculpted riches in the Valley of Mexico, immortal phrases engraved by the light into pure blocks of terror.

Today I fight alone with a word. That which concerns me, to which I concern: heads or tails? eagle or sun?

–"Eagle or Sun?"

LC Seeks OK for Iraq Transactions

Publications Not Excluded from President's Embargo

The international embargo of trade with Iraq and Kuwait in retaliation for Saddam Hussein's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait is designed to force the Iraqi leader to withdraw his troops.

Back home, President Bush's Executive Order 12722 that same day froze Iraqi assets in the United States and prohibited the import and export of any goods, technology or services to or from Iraq. "Publications and other informational materials" were excepted.

On Aug. 9, three days after the first of several U.N. Security Council resolutions to come, Bush signed two revised orders, 12724 and 12725. Executive Order 12725 froze Kuwaiti assets and imposed an embargo on transactions with that country, but neither of the new orders contained the provisions that had excluded publications from the embargo.

On Aug. 17, LC General Counsel John Kominski formally requested a waiver of the embargo insofar as it forbade the importation and exportation of publications. As of Oct. 18, the Treasury Department Office of Foreign Assets Control had not granted the request.

Similar waivers, or licenses, have been granted to the Library in the past for embargoes against Cuba, North Vietnam and in 1980 against Iran. During the embargo of Iran, Assistant Secretary of Treasury for Enforcement and Operations Richard Davis wrote in a letter to then Librarian Daniel J. Boorstin that the license to continue transactions with Iran had been granted "based on [Treasury's] policy of not impeding the free flow of information and on . . . past practice."

In his letter Mr. Kominski contends that publications from Iran and Kuwait are necessary to meet the research and information needs of both the public and private sectors:

"The Library's acquisitions of Iraqi and Kuwaiti government documents and periodicals . . . constitute one of the principal resources . . . for current affairs, economic, and social information . . . and a primary source of information for Federal agencies. Because of this, we believe that . . . the Library, through its internal Order Division and its offices in Cairo, should be permitted (perhaps even encouraged) to continue to acquire as much from these countries as possible for use by analysts during the current crisis."

Mr. Kominski told the *Information Bulletin* Oct. 18 that he was "optimistic" the waiver would be granted. "The precedent was set in the Iran situation. I don't see any difference" this time.

In fiscal 1989, the Library did a modest $3,011 worth of business with Iraq. In fiscal 1990 the amount was $3,463.

From Kuwait, purchases from LC for fiscal 1989 totaled $6,230. In fiscal 1990, the total was $10,019.

The Library's Cataloging Distribution Service sells bibliographic information subscriptions to six libraries in Iraq and eight in Kuwait and, under the current embargo these orders may not be fulfilled and forwarded to these libraries as LC has promised (and been paid) to do.

"The Library's acquisitions of Iraqi and Kuwaiti government documents and periodicals constitute a primary source of information for Federal agencies. Because of this, we believe the Library should be permitted to continue to acquire as much from these countries as possible for use by analysts during the current crisis."

—John Kominski

20 Million See LC's "Read More" Message During World Series

An estimated 20 million viewers saw a 30-second "Read More About It" message from the Library of Congress during the fourth World Series game between the series-sweeping Cincinnati Reds and the Oakland A's on Oct. 20.

Announcer Tim McCarver presented the reading recommendations—*Baseball: The People's Game* by Harold Seymour, *Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball* by George F. Will and *Season Ticket: A Baseball Companion* by Roger Angell—which were chosen by the Library's Center for the Book.

"This is the largest audience we've reached during the 11-year history of 'Read More About It,'" commented John Y. Cole, the center's director, and the first time a World Series telecast has encouraged viewers to go to their local libraries and stores for books about baseball. Since 1979 Library of Congress "Read More About It" announcements have been broadcast during more than 300 major CBS programs.

Only those who could crowd into Wrigley Field on Aug. 22, 1930, were able to watch the Chicago Cubs play the St. Louis Cardinals, but more than 20 million saw the current World Series—and LC's "Read More About It" announcement.

LC also maintains contacts with book dealers and publishers' representatives in both Baghdad and Kuwait City, which also have been terminated in compliance with the Executive Orders of embargo. LC employees from the Cairo and Karachi field offices normally travel to book fairs in these cities at least once a year to purchase and exchange books. The Kuwaiti book fair has, for several years, been the largest in the pan-Arabic world but the Library will be unable to send representatives or make any further purchases until a U.S. license has been granted.

The embargo has also threatened the progress of a joint project between the Kuwaiti Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and the Research Libraries Group (RLG), of which the Library of Congress is a member. KFAS has funded the development of program enhancements to the Research Library Information Network (RLIN), (the shared computer system of RLG), facilitating the display of Arabic script on computer screens.

Computer-readable Chinese, Japanese and Korean characters (CJK), implemented in 1983, were the first non-Roman alphabets to augment RLIN, followed by Hebraic script in 1988. A completion date of 1991 had been scheduled for the KFAS/RLG Arabic script project but the likelihood of meeting that deadline has become increasingly doubtful.

LC created an on-line program that phonetically transliterates Arabic characters into romanized letters for cataloging and bibliographic purposes nearly 20 years ago; libraries worldwide subscribe to the program.

LC also distributes MARC (machine-readable catalog) records and catalog cards of Arabic- and Farsi-language publications that are created in the romanized Arabic text for researchers who do not read Arabic. Currently, the Library's romanized-Arabic text is the only computer program available capable of processing data related to Arabic-language publications, making the long-awaited KFAS/RLG project of great importance to the library community.

According to Chris Filstrup, chief of the Overseas Division, the Cairo field office was to have been the site for training in the new RLIN Arabic script project. However, even if the Office of Foreign Assets Control grants the Library's request for a license to waive the embargo restrictions, the technological nature of the RLIN project may still place it in jeopardy.

All such licenses granted in the past and in the earlier Iraq-Kuwait executive orders have contained provisions explicitly excluding "technology (including technical data or other information)" from any such waiver.

—David Turner

The Near East Section:

Its Services Are Often Driven by Today's News

by George N. Atiyeh

The Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has made the services of the Near East Section ever more useful to its constituents. Materials dealing with that crisis as well as others in recent history, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the war in Lebanon, the Iran-Iraq war, and other political and religious events that affect the delicate balance in the region, are abundant in the section's collections.

The section's services are offered to Congress, government agencies, other libraries and the public in general. The section's staff handles inquiries for information on most subjects except legal and technical matters. In addition to providing information, the section's services include bibliographic orientation and consultation. Researchers who need to learn about the latest publication on subjects handled by the section are assisted by the reference librarians, in their respective fields. Short bibliographies are compiled and instructions on the use of the catalogs is given to those who need it.

Through the use of the Near East National Union List, assistance is provided to locate materials in Arabic, Persian and Turkish in other libraries of the United States and Canada.

Staff members do translations for Congress and on occasion, if the material is short, translate for the public.

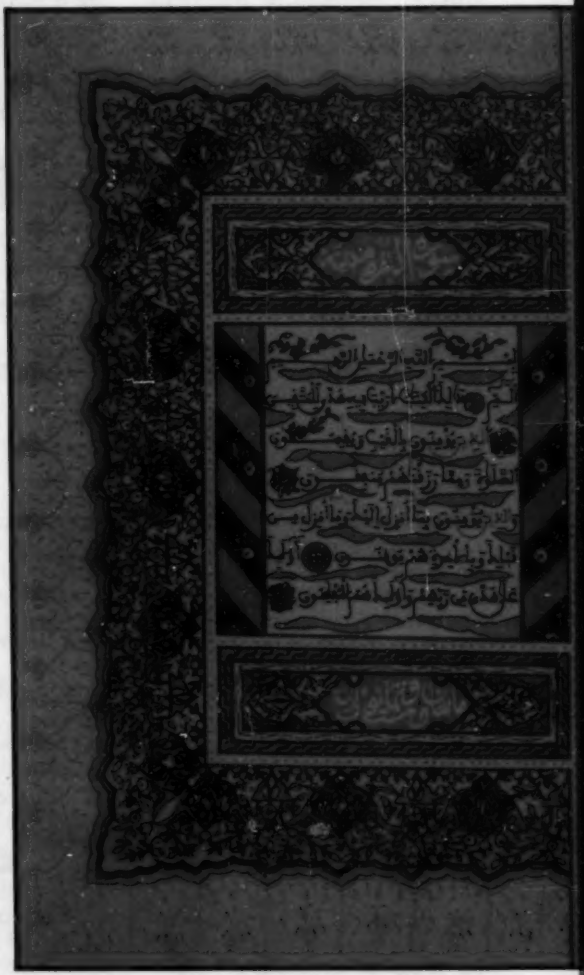
The Near East Section is a part of the African and Middle Eastern Division. The section was established in August 1945 as part of the former Orientalia Division and signaled the recognition of a need in the Library for accelerated development of the Near East Collections to meet the country's expanding interest in the Near and Middle Eastern countries.

The term "Near East" as it is now used does not correspond to the geographic areas covered by the section's activities, which include the Arab world, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and the Caucasus. When the section was founded, it also had the responsibility of cataloging the materials in its custody, but in the early 1950s, this responsibility was transferred to the Processing Services.

During its relatively short history, the section has been headed by Harold W. Glidden (1945-1947), Robert Ogden (1949-1966), and George N. Atiyeh (1967-).

The section is now assigned the responsibility of handling the Library's reference and bibliographic services of Islam, the Arab world, including North Africa, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Malta and also Armenia. It shares with the European Division the reference responsibility over Central Asia and the Caucasus and with the African Section over the Sudan and the sub-Saharan countries that are members of the League of Arab States, namely, Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti.

In addition to reference and bibliographic functions, the section administers the Library's collections in the languages of the Near East, Central Asia, the Caucasus, except Hebrew and the languages of the ancient Near East. It is also responsible for building up the Library's Near Eastern collections, preparing bibliographies, sponsoring cultural activities and maintaining liaison with other institutions in the United States and abroad.

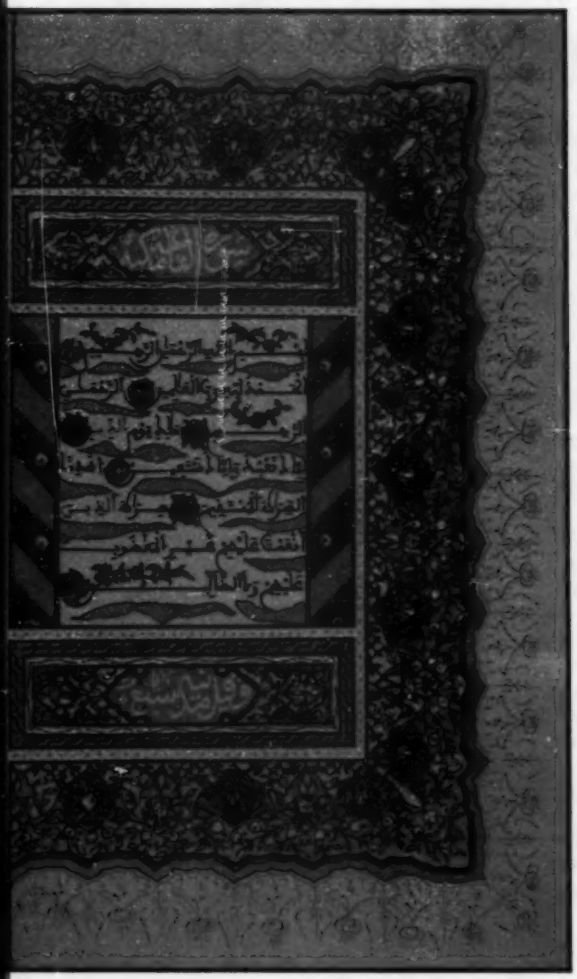


The Collections

The Near East Section has custody over materials in about 31 languages. The major holdings are in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, followed by Central Asian, Armenian and Georgian.

In a general way, the scope of the collections follows the contours of the general collections of the Library of Congress, with strong emphasis on the social sciences and humanities.

There are more than 4,000 volumes on the Middle East in Western languages as well as in the vernacular languages.



The opening chapter of the Koran, by the Tunisian calligrapher Hajj Zuhayr Bash Mamluk in the Maghribi (North African) script. Photos by Jim Higgins

The Arabic-Language Collection

Numerically this collection is the largest. It consists of about 80,000 titles and more than 100,000 volumes. Approximately 5,000 volumes are added annually.

The collection is made up of monographs, i.e., books, periodicals, government publications, newspapers, manuscripts and microforms. It contains materials on all subjects, except technical works on medicine and agriculture. Publications come from all over the Arab world. Because of the higher book production in Egypt and because of the presence, since 1962, of an LC office in Cairo, the acquisition of Egyptian publications tends to be greater than that of other publications, though efforts are being made to rectify the disparity.

The monographic collection is especially strong in Islamic religion, Arabic history and literature. The works of classical authors, whether in literature, history, geography, philosophy or science, are well represented as are the great writers of modern times.

Because of the recent founding of the section, pre-1945 publications are somewhat limited, and great effort has been made to fill in the existing gaps. The Library has succeeded in acquiring a great number of works by Egyptian and other Arab writers, historians and political leaders of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Early imprints in Arabic came from Europe, such as al-Tusi's *Tahrir usul li-Uclidus* (Rome, 1594), *The Psalms of David* (Rome, 1614), Erpenio's *New Testament* (Rome, 1616) and the Holy Qur'an (Hamburg, 1694). From Calcutta, India, the Library has acquired publications of the College of Fort Williams, such as al-Shirwani's *al-'Ajab al'ujab fi-ma yufidu al-kuttab* (1845). Early imprints from Cairo's Imprimerie Nationale and Bulaq, Malta's American Press, Tunisia, Algeria, and Istanbul are also represented. From Aleppo, Syria, comes *Kitab al-Injil al-Sharif al-Tahir* (1703), the second book ever printed in movable type in the Arab world (see box on exhibit, page 376).

The Persian Collections

The collection in the Persian language and its cognates (Pushto, Dari, and Kurdish) comprises a variety of materials in all fields of knowledge. The Persian-, or Farsi-, language materials consist of about 25,000 volumes and are strong in politics, literature, history, economics, religion and philosophy.

All political trends since the early 1940s are fairly represented. For example, there is ample material on the communist Tudeh Party, founded in 1941, on the nationalization of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., and on the dissident movements during the reign (1941-1979) of Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi of Iran. The Islamic Revolution is represented by a

(Cont. on p. 374)

Famous Calligrapher's Work Discovered in Library

What began as curiosity about the identity of the calligrapher of a Turkish manuscript ended with an important discovery for Barbara Meier-James, a senior rare book conservator in the Conservation Office, and Christopher Murphy, Turkish area specialist in the Near East Section.

It started back in August 1985 when a visitor was shown a book of calligraphy because of its splendid illumination and beauty. Some of the paper of the manuscript has rose color wash over the surface and is flecked with gold leaf within the panels of the calligraphy. The signature page, however, is damaged, probably by water, and the ink is smeared, making the signature illegible. In addition, the surface of the paper has been abraded as if there was some attempt to remove the signature. Wanting to know who the calligrapher was, Ms. Meier-James and Dr. Murphy set out on an investigation trail that led to the identification of a colophon, or identifying device, of the famous Shaykh Hamdullah.

Ms. Meier-James described photographic methods she used to try to capture the writing more clearly and verify the signature. "The damaged area was photographed using ultraviolet film, which intensified the contrast of the printed image but did not bring out the letters," she says. "Then a high-speed infrared process film was used and the developing modified to achieve a range of dark and light photographic prints. By studying the prints with less contrast and a lighter image, the letters could be discerned."

Dr. Murphy said that "the results confirmed my suspicion, based on circumstantial evidence, that the calligrapher in question was the famous Shaykh Hamdullah. . . . What can be read of the colophon demonstrated clearly that we definitely possess the work of the master calligrapher."

A page from a manuscript of the Koran, circa 1490, by the famous calligrapher Shaykh Yakut Hamdullah, the dean of Ottoman calligraphers.

Dr. Murphy describes Shaykh Hamdullah (1437–1520) as "the first Ottoman Turkish calligrapher to achieve an international reputation during his own life, and he has retained his position as being among the foremost, if not the foremost, calligrapher of the Ottoman Empire."

Hamdullah was born in the Turkish city of Amasya and received his education there. His talent was recognized very early and he was sent to study calligraphy under Hayriddin Marasi, who had been trained by a student of the great Arab calligrapher Yakut Mustasimi. When the future Ottoman Sultan Bayezid II was appointed governor of Amasya, Hamdullah became his tutor in calligraphy, and when Bayezid II went to Istanbul and became sultan, he brought Hamdullah to the palace and arranged for him to receive many commissions. The artist provided the calligraphic inscriptions for several mosques, including two built by Bayezid II and one built by Firuz Aga, the *hazinidar*, or official in charge of the inner palace service.

The Library of Congress manuscript copied by Shaykh Hamdullah consists of selections of verses from the Koran. Dr. Murphy said, "It was copied while Hamdullah and Firuz Aga were both employed at the Topkapi Palace from 1492 to 1512. The work is dedicated to Firuz Aga, who was a well-known patron of the arts, especially the religious arts. While the illlumination of the manuscript is incomplete, the dedication pages and the extant illumination are of the very finest quality, as one would expect of a work produced at the palace."

—Jean E. Tucker

Near East *(Cont. from p. 373)*

collection of works by its leaders Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Shari'at-e Madari and others.

Materials dealing with foreign policy, especially relations with the United States and the Arab world are also available.

The Central Asian Collection

This is a substantial collection of materials written in the 24 or so languages spoken by the Turkic and other ethnic groups living in the Soviet Union's Central Asian region, such as Uzbek, Turkmen, Kazakh, Kirgiz, Ossetic, Tajik, Tatar and Yakut. Azeri publications are also included in this collection. About 1,100 items are in Arabic script from the period before 1939, when Cyrillic was adopted as the official script.

The Turkish Collection

There are two Turkish collections,

the modern one is printed in Roman script, and the Ottoman materials are in Arabic script. The Ottoman collection of about 3,300 volumes, although not the largest of its kind in the United States, contains a substantial number of historic works written by well-known Ottoman historians. There is a complete set of *Devlet Salname* (Ottoman Government yearbooks) on microfiche and many provincial yearbooks. The Sultan Abdul Hamid II collection, a gift from the sultan to the Library, provides a representative view of Turkish intellectual life at the end of the 19th century.

The Roman script collection contains, for example, works on Turkism, Republican history, economics and cultural development.

The two collections contain 25,000 titles in 25,700 volumes; about 1,700 new titles are added annually.

The collection also contains a number of early imprints. For example, there are nine of the 17 titles produced by the Mutaferrika Press (1727–1744) and several Bulaq publications.

The Armenian Collection

This collection reflects the geographic distribution of Armenians around the world today. Thus materials are received from wherever there are large concentrations of Armenians: the Middle East, Europe, Soviet Armenia, Canada, the United States and Latin America.

At approximately 11,500 volumes, the monographic collection is rich in reference and general works such as Petrosyan's three-volume *Bibliography of Periodical Literature 1794–1956* and *The Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia*. There are adequate sources on the Armenian church, literature and other aspects of Armenian life and history, including the microfilmed collection of Ottoman Turkish documents on the Armenians from the Turkish Archives (1691–1894).

Mekhitarian Publications (Venice and Vienna) are represented as an almost complete set of the output of the religious order since the 1700s. There are a number of early imprints from Constantinople and Echmiazin, which include *The Book of Redemption* by Catholicos Simeon of Yerevan printed in 1779. On the whole the collection can support advanced research in Armenian history and culture.

George Atiyeh (left) confers with Julian Witherell, chief of the African and Middle Eastern Division. Photo by Jim Higgins

The Georgian Collection

Although Georgian is not Near Eastern or Islamic, the Near East Section has custody over the cataloged collection. Unfortunately, most of the Georgian material consisting of approximately 6,000 volumes is still uncataloged.

Serials Collection

The newspapers come from all the countries of the Arab world as well as from Europe and the Americas. In 1968 a program was initiated to preserve representative papers on microfilm. Sixty-four Arabic newspapers are included in this program.

The Mansuri Collection

In 1945 the Library purchased a collection of printed books and manuscripts from Sheikh Mahmud al-Imam al-Mansuri, professor of religion at al-Azhar University in Cairo. Assembled by the sheikh from sources in the Middle East, Africa and Europe, the collection deals with virtually every aspect of Koranic and Islamic studies and includes commentaries, biographies, dictionaries and works on history, literature and philosophy. About 1,300 of the 5,000 volumes in the collection are book manuscript.

The Manuscript Collection

The Arabic manuscript collection is rich in works dealing with the Islamic religion. Of particular interest are fragments from the Koran in Kufic script from the 11th century and a fragment by the father of Turkish calligraphy, Shaykh Hamdullah. There are also works on history, science and literature, especially from the 15th to 18th centuries.

(Cont. on p. 376)

Book in Islamic World Goes on Display

The Book in the Islamic World will go on display—Korans, manuscripts, early and modern printed books, book covers and other examples of Islamic calligraphy—during a conference to be held at the Library, Nov. 8–9.

The exhibit, remaining on display through December, will show a number of rare holdings:

An 11th century Koran section written in Kufic script on vellum.

Another Koran section done in Istanbul circa 896 AH/1490 A.D. by the famous calligrapher Yakut Hamdullah al-Amasi (1437–1520). This magnificent copy was done for Pir Aga, a chamberlain of Beyazid II, the Ottoman sultan at the time.

Kitab al-Injil al-tahir, the second book ever printed in movable type in Arabic script. It was printed in Aleppo, Syria, in 1706 (the last page is shown above).

There also are samples of fine manuscripts and early imprints from the Mutaferrika Press in Istanbul, the first press to publish in Turkish, and from the Bulaq Press in Egypt.

Samples of lithographic printing from Iran, India and North Africa will be exhibited together with different calligraphic sheets and bindings representing a variety of styles.

—Jean E. Tucker

Near East *(Cont. from p. 375)*

Some of the manuscripts are illuminated.

The Persian manuscripts number about 80. They include works in most fields of knowledge, especially history. Some are beautifully illuminated and illustrated, such as the *Shahnamah* of Firdawsi. There are several anthologies by famous poets, including Sa'di and Hafiz, and a number of prayer books that are exquisitely written and illuminated. Some of the bindings are lacquered or gilded.

The Turkish manuscript collection of approximately 100 deals mostly with religious subjects. There are some interesting titles, such as *Tezkiretu'l-Evliya*, copied by Muhammed Haravi in 1526. This is one of three known copies of the anonymous translation of Attar's work made for Aydinoglu Mehmed beg in 1334. There is also *Muhammediyye* by Yazuoglu Mehmed in 1558 and *Acaibu'l-Mahlukat*, an illuminated copy of the Turkish translation made for Suleyman the Magnificent's son Mustafa, undated but probably late 16th century.

The Special Collections

During the 1930s, the Library acquired a collection from New York art dealer Kirkor Minassian (1847?–1944) of more than 300 items related to the development of writing and the book arts in the Middle East. It included book manuscripts, book bindings, calligraphy sheets, miniatures and religious scrolls. There are more than 200 calligraphy sheets (a few were added from other sources) that contain fragments of the Koran in Kufic script from the ninth and 10th centuries as well as several items representing most styles of calligraphy.

There is also a rare Persian genealogy of the Prophet Muhammad in scroll form containing 31 different styles of script. Seventy-one bookbindings donated by Minassian, including one rare 14th century example, are kept in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Most of these Persian- and Turkish-style bindings date from the 17th and 18th centuries.

The Sultan Abdul Hamid II Collection was presented in 1884 to the Library by the sultan when U.S. Rep. Abraham Hewitt, a New York Democrat (1875–1879; 1881–1886) visited Istanbul. It contains 375 volumes in Turkish and Arabic representing a cross section of the knowledge of Turkey at the time. Because of their brittle condition, all these volumes have been put on microfilm.

The Catholic Microfilm Collection, all on microfilm, was donated by the now-defunct Catholic Center in California. It consists of copies of manuscripts in Arabic and Syriac dealing mostly with religion found in the libraries of Syrian and Lebanese monasteries and learned institutions.

In 1950 the Library undertook a huge expedition to microfilm in situ the manuscripts at St. Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai. As a result, a collection of 1,700 rolls of film and 1,248 photographs was produced containing 1,687 titles of manuscripts; 306 are in Arabic, 1,087 in Greek and the rest in nine other languages.

Checklist of Manuscripts in the St. Catherine's Monastery, Mount Sinai, listing all the microfilmed items, was printed in 1952 and a copy is available in the section, as is *The Arabic Manuscripts of Mount Sinai* by Aziz Suryal Atiya, which lists the codices and scrolls and contains a most useful introduction dealing with their history and importance.

George Atiyeh is chief of the Near East Section; he is assisted by George D. Selim, Arab area specialist; Ibrahim V. Pourhadi, Iran, Afghanistan and Soviet Central Asia area specialist; Christopher M. Murphy, Turkish area specialist; Karam M. Habashy, processing and reference assistant; Fawzi M. Tadros, senior reference librarian; and Ella S. Arterberry, bibliographic assistant.

Islamic Book Conference To Be Held at LC

An international conference, "The Book in the Islamic World," will be held at the Library of Congress on Nov. 8 and 9.

The conferees will cover the study of the book, Islamic studies and questions and problems dealing with definitions and dissemination of the book.

A group of scholars will present papers in the sessions, moderated by Guy S. Brown of the U.S. Information Agency and Esin Atil of the Smithsonian Institution. Moderators from the Library are John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book; Michael Albin, chief of the Order Division; and Dana Pratt, director of publishing.

The program will include a panel on the concept of the book, in which Professor Frank Rosenthal of Yale University will deal with the classical Muslim view of books; Dr. Irfan Shadid of Georgetown University, with the Arabic book before the rise of Islam; and Professor Jacques Berque of the College de France, with the text of the Koran.

The transition from manuscripts to printing will be discussed by Professors Muhsin Mahdi of Harvard University, Geoffrey J. Roper of Cambridge University and Samir Sarhan of the General Egyptian Book Organization. The definitions and internal organization of the book will be discussed by Professors Ramzi Baalbaki of American University of Beirut and Wadad Kadi of the University of Chicago.

The final section of the conference will deal with the art of the book and will be handled by Professors Salaheddine al-Munajjed of Dar al-Kitab al-Jadid, Priscilla Soucek of the Art Institute of New York University, Filiz Cagman of the Topkapi Sarai Museum Library in Istanbul, Marianna Shreve Simpson of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery and David King of Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitat.

The conference was planned by a committee at the Library of Congress headed by George N. Atiyeh, head of the Near East Section; John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book; Michael Albin, chief of the Order Division, who originated the idea for the international conference; and Christian Filstrup, chief of the Overseas Operations Division. The committee met with a group of scholars of Middle Eastern civilizations to set the focus of the conference.

The conference is sponsored by the Center for the Book and the Near East Section of the African and Middle Eastern Division at the Library of Congress.

The conference was made possible by contributions from Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, the Institute of Turkish Studies, Saudi Aramco, the U.S. Information Agency and the Embassy of Saudi Arabia. A reception Nov. 8 will be hosted by the Librarian of Congress and Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United States.

—Jean E. Tucker

Karem Habashi processes incoming Arabic newspapers, which come from all the countries of the Arab world as well as from Europe and the Americas. Photo by Jim Higgins

Fulbright Fellow To Visit Tunis

Michael Albin, chief of the Order Division, will visit Tunis for six weeks beginning Nov. 10 to complete a 12-week research project he hopes will result in a monograph on the history of printing in the Islamic world. Mr. Albin was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship earlier this year under the Islamic Civilization Research Program.

The grant supports Mr. Albin's research in 19th century publishing and printing, focusing on Iraq and Tunisia.

The first leg of the project was a six-week trip to Baghdad and Mosul, Iraq, in March and April. Mr. Albin said that, "considering the unpredictability of the [Saddam Hussein] regime," his stay in Iraq this past spring was uneventful, offering no portent of the Kuwaiti invasion to come.

In Tunis, Mr. Albin will do research in the central archives of the National Library, examining sources for early printing dating to the 1850s.

—David Turner

WHO IS THIS MAN?*

Library Looks Ahead to Columbus Day 1992

How many people know that scholars and cartographers still do not agree on exactly where it was that Columbus first landed in the "New World"?

Or that he completed four voyages to the Caribbean but never touched what is now the U.S. mainland?

How many people know that Cristobal Colon (1451-1506) gained much of his navigational skill from the Portuguese and that as a young man he frequently sailed the northern coast of Africa?

Or that there is no surviving contemporary image of Christopher Columbus? Indeed, that no one knows what he really looked like. While the rest of the country celebrated Columbus Day 1990 with parades and speeches, the Library of Congress was getting ready for the biggest commemoration of all in 1992-1993.

Oct. 12, 1992, marks the 500th anniversary of Columbus's landfall in the Americas.

Scholars and researchers have been working at the Library for months analyzing its collections for Columbus-related materials and trying to fill in some of the blanks in our knowledge about Columbus and the world of 1492.

And they are pulling together an amazing variety of things, such as a 1531 Mexican manuscript on *amate* (a paper made from the bark of fig trees before the arrival of the Europeans); a bill from an Indian village for building materials and military aid to the Spaniards; drawings of Aztec calendars; original maps showing how the world was conceptualized by European cartographers before and immediately after Columbus's voyage; and one of three extant versions of the *Columbus Book of Privileges* (1502), made by Columbus just before his final voyage.

"Recent scholarship tells us that we still have much to learn about the activities, influences and contributions of the various groups from the Old World and from the New World who affected the world in which we live—a process of encounter that was accelerated by the voyages of Columbus and subsequent explorers," notes John Hébert, head of LC's five-year Quincentenary Program, "An Ongoing Voyage."

—Helen Dalrymple

**Images of Christopher Columbus (clockwise from top left): 19th century painting by Gustaaf Wappers; circa 1570 portrait by Sir Anthony More; Leopold Flameng etching, from an 1864 publication; engraving from DeBry's 1585* Voyages, *part V; a copy of Antonio del Rincon's 16th century painting; 1512; portrait by Laurens Lotto, painted six years after the discoverer's death*

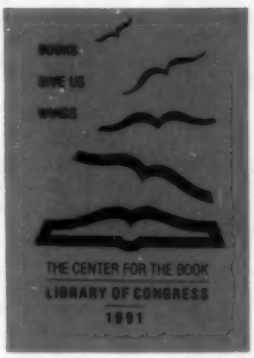
Library Launches "1991—The Year of the Lifetime Reader"

More than 60 Organizations in Partnership with LC

When its Center for the Book was established in 1977, the Library of Congress became one of the few national libraries in the world to create a reading promotion office. The center's projects and publications, all funded by private contributions, seek to stimulate public interest in books, reading and libraries.

National reading themes are one of the most effective ways of building the partnerships necessary to fulfill the center's mission. "1991—The Year of the Lifetime Reader," the forthcoming national campaign chaired by first lady Barbara Bush, is the most ambitious promotion to date. It builds on the success and partnerships of "1989—The Year of the Young Reader," but far surpasses that effort in support from other organizations.

According to John Y. Cole, the center's director, more than 60 national educational and civic organizations, ranging from Alpha Kappa Alpha International to Wider Opportunities for Women (see box on following page) will use the theme or develop projects at the local level. The American Library Association (ALA) is marketing "Year of the Lifetime Reader" T-shirts, magnets, pencils and banners and has commissioned a poster from artist Jerry Pinkney.



Pizza Hut Inc., sponsor of the BOOK IT! National Reading Incentive Program, paid for the Lifetime Reader brochure and will participate nationally.

With support from World Book, the ALA and the Center for the Book will sponsor a "Year of the Lifetime Reader" national photography contest that is to become a national traveling exhibition.

The Book-of-the-Month Club and the Center for the Book are sponsoring a research survey to learn more about the development of lifetime reading habits. CBS Television, the Center for the Book's partner in the "Read More About It" book project (see story, page 371), will participate, as will NBC Television and the Arts & Entertainment Network. The Defense Department Dependents School System, with 269 schools in 19 countries, will develop projects. So will the 23 Centers for the Book established to reinforce and extend, at the state level, the mission of the center in the Library.

The state centers are in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

"1991—The Year of the Lifetime Reader" is a unifying theme for supporting reading and literacy projects that benefit all age groups. Its purpose is to remind Americans of the joy and importance of reading as a lifetime activity. The campaign encourages and draws attention to family literacy programs, adult literacy and reading motivation projects, and the needs of blind and physically handicapped readers. Library of Congress's National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is a campaign participant.

What can you do to help the center in its efforts? A leaflet listing 53 ideas for celebrating and participating in the "Year of the Lifetime Reader" is available from the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Information about the national photography contest is available from Photo Contest, Public Information Office, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Ordering information for "Year of the Lifetime Reader" products and the poster by Jerry Pinkney is available from ALA Graphics, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Map Collectors Convene at Library of Congress

More than 200 map collectors from all over gathered in Washington during the first week in October for the eighth annual International Symposium of the International Map Collectors' Society (IMCoS), the first such meeting in the United States.

Host for the meeting was the Washington Map Society, whose president, James Flatness, is head of acquisitions for the Library's Geography and Map Division.

The Library was one of the major venues for the meeting, with a book signing in the Gift Shop with Kenneth Nebenzahl; a reception in Madison Hall; special tours of the Geography and Map Division and the Conservation Office; and the Speakers' Program, held Wednesday and Thursday mornings, Oct. 3-4, in the Mumford Room.

The aim of the International Map Collectors Society, founded in 1980, is to promote and encourage map collecting, map preservation and the study of the history of cartography.

The theme for this year's Speakers' Program, which was coordinated by Richard Stephenson, specialist in cartographic history at LC, was "Mapping America."

Kenneth Nebenzahl, rare map and book collector whose *Atlas of Columbus* has just been published by Rand McNally, was the first speaker. His slide lecture was in four parts: pre-1492 European world maps, with an emphasis on those that influenced Columbus's thinking; the earliest maps affected by Columbus's voyages, illustrating the crisis created by the uncertainty about just exactly where he had been; the great planispheres of the world produced during the first half of the 16th century, which gradually filled in the cartographic outline of the continents as new information reached Europe; and 17th and 18th century maps that reflect the beginning of Europe's colonial era and show the land masses of the world in a way that is more familiar to today's readers.

Mr. Nebenzahl observed that Ptolemy's considerable underestimation of Earth's circumference (by about 25 percent) "provided encouragement to Columbus that might have proved fatal, but instead, worked to his great good fortune."

Pearce Grove, director of Libraries at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and Helen Wallis, retired map librarian at the British Library and president of IMCoS, followed Dr. Nebenzahl with a discussion of the Bodleian copperplate maps of America. A treasure trove of early maps of America, they were left to Oxford University's Bodleian Library in 1755 by Richard Rawlinson. Their significance has only been realized in recent years; some of these copperplate engravings represent the earliest maps of portions of what is now the United States.

"The Atlantic Neptune" And Charting the Great Lakes

In 1763 Great Britain's victory over France and Spain in the Seven Years War left the nation with a vast new empire stretching from the North American Arctic to the Gulf of Mexico. It was an area only sketchily charted, and over the next 12 years, a series of surveying expeditions charted part of the Atlantic Coast.

A remarkable set of sea atlases called *The Atlantic Neptune*, produced by a young engineer, J.F.W. Des Barres, was the most conspicuous result of these surveys. Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Terrell, retired head of Navigation at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England, assessed the professional and personal qualities of the author of the "Neptune" in his paper and discussed whether his great venture achieved his ambitions for it.

The charts and views produced for these atlases under the direction of Des Barres are magnificent, according to Dr. Terrell. "But the splendor of the product has tended to obscure

Partners of Center for the Book 1991

As of Oct. 17, 1990, the following 65 organizations have accepted the Center's invitation to serve as partners in the Year of the Lifetime Reader: Alpha Kappa Alpha International; American Association of Adult and Continuing Education; American Association of Retired Persons; American Bar Association; American Booksellers Association; American Council on Education; American Library Association; American Mensa Ltd.; American Newspaper Publishers Association; American Postal Workers Union; Association of American Publishers; Association of Booksellers for Children; Baltimore City Literacy Corporation; Business Council for Effective Literacy; Cartoonists Across America; Center for Applied Linguistics; Chautauqua Northwest; Child Welfare League of America; Children's Book Council; Children's Defense Fund; Congress of National Black Churches; Correctional Education Association; Council for Early Professional Childhood Recognition; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.; Federation of State Humanities Councils; Friends of Libraries, U.S.A.; General Federation of Women's Clubs; Graphic Arts Literacy Alliance; Home & School Institute Inc.; International Association of Business Communicators; International Reading Association; Kiwanis International; Laubach Literacy Action; Leo Clubs; Links Inc.; Literacy Network; Literacy Volunteers of America; Lutheran Church Library Association; National Alliance of Black School Educators; National Alliance of Business; National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; National Association of University Women; National Black Child Development Institute; National Book Foundation; National Center for Family Literacy; National Council for the Social Studies; National Council of La Raza; National Council of State Directors of Adult Education; National Council on the Aging; National Federation of Press Women; National Governors Association; National Home Study Council; National Organization on Disability; Parents Without Partners; Phi Beta Kappa; PLUS (Project Literacy U.S.); Public Television Outreach Alliance; Reading is Fundamental Inc.; Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL); U.S. Department of Education; U.S. Department of Labor; U.S. Government Printing Office; U.S. Information Agency; United Way of America; Wider Opportunities for Women

critical assessment of the true value of the charts and where they stood in comparison with other great hydrographic enterprises of the period." The Library's Geography and Map Division has one of the largest collections of charts from *The Atlantic Neptune* in existence.

John Wolter, chief of the Library's Geography and Map Division, followed Dr. Terrell with a discussion of the mapping of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River, beginning with the official hydrographic surveys of those waterways by Great Britain in 1815. Dr. Wolter pointed out that the surveyors faced many physical and logistical problems, but noted that "these small dedicated groups of professionals have given us what is perhaps the best charted body of water in the world."

The Map Collecting Trade

The second morning of the Speakers' Program began with a discussion of the rare map trade today.

Donald Cresswell, a map dealer, and Seymour Schwartz, a map collector, both observed that map collectors are a rare breed. "Maps are fascinating for the history they tell and beautiful in the art they portray," said Mr. Cresswell. Mr. Schwartz agreed that map collecting is satisfying; the only problem is that "satisfaction is never complete--no sooner do we own some great map than we want another."

The L'Enfant Plan and the Design For the City of Washington

The program concluded with Richard Stephenson's slide lecture about the L'Enfant Plan, one of the cartographic treasures of the Library. His paper examined the creation, content and significance of L'Enfant's plan of Washington, together with the subsequent history of the document itself and the Library's plans to arrest its deteriorating condition and Library's plans to arrest its deteriorating condition and preserve it for the future.

--Helen Dalrymple

☐ National Geography Awareness Week at LC

November 11-17 has been designated "National Geography Awareness Week," and the Library is using its current exhibition, "A World of Names," to emphasize to visitors the importance of understanding maps, geographical relationships, and place names.

Each day during "National Geography Awareness Week," a different question relating to the "World of Names" exhibition will be posted at the entrance to Madison Hall. Visitors who answer the question correctly will receive a free copy of the exhibition guide, which costs $2.50 in the Gift Shop.

☐ Juilliard String Quartet Opens Fall Series of Chamber Concerts at the National Academy of Sciences

For the first time in its 65-year history of offering free chamber music concerts, the Library is presenting a series of concerts in collaboration with another institution at a site other than the Library's own Coolidge Auditorium. The Juilliard String Quartet opened the fall concert series at the National Academy of Sciences Auditorium on Thursday and Friday evenings, Oct. 18-19. An enthusiastic crowd, which filled the 670-seat auditorium to capacity, welcomed the Juilliard to its new, temporary, venue, as they performed music by Mozart, Carter, and Ravel.

☐ Rare Birds Flock to Rare Books

Is it the phase of the moon, or something simpler--like the fact that local cable television channels recently carried the Global Library television project's one-hour program about the Houdini collections at the Library of Congress? Whatever the answer, the fact is that the Rare Books and Special Collections Division has been experiencing an unusual spate of interest in its Houdini and magic collections in recent weeks. Readers, some of them professional magicians who look decidedly different from the regular patrons of the division, have been particularly interested in looking at the Houdini scrapbooks, and at the conjuring books he collected during his lifetime.

Reference specialist Rob Shields reports that the only act of levitation performed in the reading room so far was with a silver coin.

☐ A new brochure, "The Nation's Library: How It Works For All Americans," has been prepared to give librarians and others a clearer idea of the many kinds of services that the Library of Congress performs as "the nation's library"--services that benefit libraries and individuals all across the country. Copies are available on request from the Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540.

☐ CRS Conference Proceedings to be Congressional Document

Congress has voted to publish the proceedings of "Understanding Congress: A Bicentennial Research Conference," which was sponsored by the Congressional Research Service together with the House and the Senate as part of the Library's celebration of the 200th anniversary of Congress in 1989.

--Helen Dalrymple

Rare Recordings Document Pre-Revolutionary Russia

At the turn of the century Russia's Czarist regime was under pressure by liberals and others seeking a more democratic system.

The Library of Congress has acquired a major collection of pre-Revolutionary Russian phono recordings that help document those changes. The collection consists of approximately 5,000 78 rpm records manufactured in Russia, chiefly from 1899 to 1917. Less than 5 percent of the recordings are available anywhere else in the United States, and much of the material is extremely rare, even within the Soviet Union.

"This collection complements others in the Library in documenting the transition from Imperial Russia to the Soviet period," said Gerald Gibson, curator in the Motion Picture Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division. "These were the people who probably sang for the czar personally. Some of the religious music on these records has not been performed for 60 or 70 years."

The collection has come to the Library over the last few years in installments from Joel Berger, who had assembled it beginning in the mid-1960s from private sources, European collections and during his visits to the Soviet Union.

About 10,000 vocal performances are represented in the Berger Collection, including examples of opera, art songs, traditional and Gypsy romances, liturgical music, patriotic songs, and ethnic and popular material. As rare as the recordings themselves are the 150 original and

photocopied Russian music catalogs and more than 100 photographs and postcards of early Russian vocalists and musicians that Dr. Berger also collected.

According to an evaluation of the collection by music consultant Elwood McKee, virtually no major vocalist of the time is not represented in the collection. Indeed, in some cases the collection includes the complete recordings of some of the greatest artists.

Significant and rare Russian labels represented include Amour, G&T, Aerophone, Columbia (Russian), Jumbo, Metropol, Russko Akioner-one and Tonophone, to name a few.

All of the rare Pathe recordings made by A.V. Nezhdanova and L.V. Sobinov, two of the most important artists of the period, are present. Virtually the entire output of N.N. Figner is included. Figner was one of the most important artists of his time, creating several roles for Tchaikovsky's operas.

Other notable artists include A.D. Vyaltseva, a popular singer of Gypsy and cabaret songs; M.A. Mikhailova; E.I. Zbruyeva; V.I. Kastorskiy; L.M. Sibiryakov; A.M. Davidov; D.I. Bushtoyarov; Petrova-Zvantseva; and two selections that are possibly, according to McKee's report, Chaliapin test pressings.

The work of Ivan Zhadan, a tenor with the Bolshoi opera in the 1930s, is represented. Zhadan is unknown today, not only in the West but also within the Soviet Union, due to his defection to the West during the Stalin era and his subsequent disappearance from the pages of Russian musical history.

—Craig D'Ooge

Postcards of turn-of-the-century opera stars from the Berger Collection

Library Begins Direct On-Line Services

Beginning Jan. 15, the Library will open its doors electronically, making its data bases available to state library agencies across the nation. Recognizing the importance of state library agencies and their mandate to meet the information needs of state legislatures and facilitate the development of statewide library services, Dr. Billington has selected this group as the focus of a 24-month trial service offer.

The new service, dubbed LC DIRECT, will offer access to the Library's bibliographic, subject and name authority records, records summarizing nearly two decades of U.S. legislation, and records with abstracts of articles on current legislative topics. Also available are specialized data bases servicing the needs of the blind and physically handicapped and one offering copyright information.

"In my visits with librarians and scholars throughout the country, one question keeps reccurring: When will the cataloging and bibliographic information compiled by the Library of Congress and available to Washington users be available on-line to other institutions?"

In response to his observation, Librarian of Congress, James H. Billington has taken decisive steps to make on-line access to the Library a reality.

LC DIRECT is a 24-month trial service offered only to state library agencies by subscription. During the trial, the Library will evaluate how valuable the service is to state library agencies, and what services it should provide in the future. This service expands upon the Library's experience with an earlier pilot project that offered on-line access to 14 institutions across the United States. A survey by the American Library Association elicited enthusiastic response from participants, Dr. Billington recently told Congress.

Chester J. Zelaya Goodman, secretary general of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History, presents a new atlas of pre-Columbian maps to Associate Librarian for Collections Services Henriette Avram, as John Wolter, chief of LC's Geography and Map Division, looks on. Published by the institute in cooperation with the Organization of American States, the atlas was compiled using copies of many maps and facsimiles from the Library's collections. Dr. Wolter assisted in identifying maps for the atlas. Photo by Reid Baker

Preconferences Slated For November, December

The guiding principle of the federal preconference to the second White Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS II) is "access is the key."

The preconference is being organized by the Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC). The meeting, slated for Nov. 26–27 in Bethesda, Md., and hosted by the National Library of Medicine, will be a forum for about 100 delegates and 70 nonvoting alternates and observers.

In Bethesda, federal information professionals will prepare an agenda of federal sector issues for the July 9–13, 1991, White House Conference and will elect delegates to that conference. These delegates will join with other delegates from the states, territories and Indian nations in developing recommendations for further improvements in library and information services.

The federal preconference will focus on three core issues: access, networking and preservation.

According to Mary Berghaus Levering, acting executive director of FLICC, "The goal of the White House preconference is to promote the current and expanding role of federal libraries and information centers as critical sources of information for democracy, literacy and productivity in the United States."

In addition, nationwide networking will be the major thrust of the LC Network Advisory Committee (NAC), chaired by Henriette D. Avram, associate librarian for Collections Services. NAC representatives will attend the pre-White House Conference as well. The group will also have its own preconference, in December; the theme is "networks for networkers."

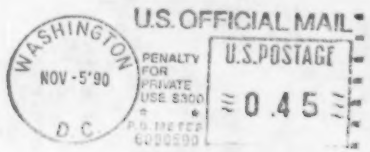
The goal for NAC, according to Mrs. Avram, is to plan information technology for the next decade. "Our vision is a true national information network, expanded to include other resources besides those in libraries—anywhere research is performed."

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
OFFICE SYSTEMS SERVICES
PRINTING AND PROCESSING SECTION
WASHINGTON, DC 20540

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

250

SHARING
THE
NATIONAL MEMORY



FIRST CLASS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
INFORMATION BULLETIN
ISSN 0041-7904

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this publication check here ☐ and return this page to the above address. If change is required enter on address label and return.

005
0163206
Univ Microfilms International
ATTN Serials Acquisitions Dept
300 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor MI 48106